THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) to (c) In August 1984, investment approval has been accorded to the Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd., for setting up of a gas cracker complex at an estimated capital cost of Rs. 1167 crores in Nagothane, District Raigarh of Maharashtra State. The State Government ef Maharashtra has issued notification for acquisition of land. The State Government has initiated action for providing water and power and also for development of other infrastruc-tural facilities.

(d) and (e) As mentioned above, the project was cleared by Government in August, 1984; an expenditure of about Rs. 18.00 crores has been incurred upto March 1985 on the project. A provision of Rs. 1 crore has been made for the year 1985-86.

Production of Optic Fibre Cables

1742. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNI-CATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has the know-how for fibre-optic communica tion, using the new optic fibre cables; and

(b) if not, whether Government have taken steps for the development Or import of technology for *he elec tronic equipment for laser communi cation, using the optic fibre cables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICA TIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) For Communication Services—Yes, Sir. For Productioni-sation of full range of optical fibre cables and systems—No, Sir.

(b) The Government have taken steps for import of technology for productionisation of optical fibre a» also complete range of optical fibre cables and systems.

ITI Consortium with ECIL and BEL

1743. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO; Will the Minister of COM-MUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Telephone Industries Limited (ITI) have formed a consortium with Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL). Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) fo_r technology trans fer initially i_n the field of communi cation.

Ob) if so, what are the functions of the Steering Committee set "P for the purpose;

(c) whether recently a new telephone exchange has been designed and developed; and'

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Indian Telephone Industries Ltd. (ITI), Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) have been designated jointely by the Department of Telecommunications and Department of Electronics to take up the manufacture of digital microwave equipment and higher order PCM systems as proven technology in these areas is not indigenously available.

(b) The Steering Committee set up for this purpose has to finalise tender documents based on specifications re ceived from Department of Telecom munications, evaluate the offers both from technical and commercial as pects and recommend a suitable col laborator for taking up indigenous manufacture.

(c) and (d) A new Digital Electronics Telephone Exchange is under development by Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) The programme envisages development of main electronics switching system to meet Indian requirements. The.

development work is expected to be completed by August 1987. As a fall out of this effort, a 128 lines electronic exchange module has been developed. The prototype of this exchange is expected to be available this month.

Filling up of the vacant post of Judge of Sikkim High Court

1744. SHRI LEONARD SOLOMAN SARING; Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sikkim High Court has been short of one Judge for the last over six months;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Sikkim High Court has the strength of only 3 permanent Judges;

(c) whether Government are also aware that because of the vacancy of the 3rd Judge, the litigants are unable to prefer appeals against the decisions of a single Judge bench; and

(d) by what time the appintment of a Judge against the vacant post is likely to be made by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Sanctioned strength of the Sikkim High Court is 3 permanent Judges inclusive of the Chief Justice. At present, 2 permanent Judges are in position, leaving' the vacancy of the Chief Justice which arose on 4-1-1985.

(c) The Registry of the Sikkim High Court has intimated that litigants are unable to file proper appeals against the decisions of a single-judge bench.

(d) The question of appointment of regular Chief Justice in the Sikkim High Court is engaging the attention | of the Govt, in consultation with the concerned authorities. It is not possible to indicate the date by which time the appointment of Chief Justice would be made:

Strike by workers in BBarat Leatnei Corporation

1745. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is fact that workers of the Bharat Leather Corporation are on strike for the last few months.

(b) if so, what are their demands.

(c) whether the demands of the workers are being considered by Government; and

(d) if not, what measures are proposed by Government to bring the strike to an end?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN); (a) to (d) A section of the workers of the BLC was on strike since April 26, 1985. However, as a result of meetings held between representatives of the Union and the Management and senior officers of this Department, the strike was called off on 5-8-85.

Allotment to Type-I quarters from P&T Pool

1746. SHRI SYED AHMED HASHMI; Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he received several letters from Members of Parliament/ Members of Delhi Metropolitan Council for allotment of Type I accommodation to SC/ST employees from P&T Pool in New Delhi during the last one year;

(b) if so, the number of such letter* received;

(c) what specific action has been taken thereon: and

(d) what was the number of SC/ ST employees whose names were, in-